

Appl. No.: 09/493,338
Amtd. Dated February 25, 2005
Response to Office Action of December 7, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Filed concurrently herewith is a newly-executed Power of Attorney revoking all previous powers of attorney and appointing the undersigned as the Principal Attorney of Record in connection with the present application. A Statement under 37 CFR 3.73b and an assignment (submitted for recordation under separate cover) accompany the Power of Attorney. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Power of Attorney.

Applicants have amended the specification to reflect issuance of two patents--namely U.S. Patent Nos. 6,584,083 and 6,529,477, corresponding to the two utility applications incorporated by reference at page 1, line 10 of the specification.

Claims 1, 3-13 and 22-37 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 27-32 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 9-13, 22 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,415,329 issued to Gelman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,726 issued to Dillon. Claims 1, 3-8, 23-26 and 33-36 have been allowed.

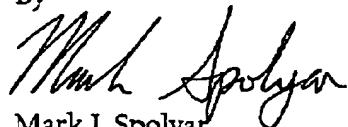
To expedite issuance of the claims directed to the subject matter allowed by the Examiner, Applicants have canceled claims 9-13, 22, 28-32 and 37. Applicants make such amendments without prejudice to presenting the rejected and withdrawn claims in a continuation application.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all currently pending claims are presently in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that any further action by Applicant is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants request a telephone conference with the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Date: February 25, 2005

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Respectfully Submitted,
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